

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-13, 17, and 19-21 remain in the application and stand rejected but are deemed allowable upon filing of a terminal disclaimer. Applicants thank the Examiner for deeming these claims allowable.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-7, 9-13, 17, and 19-21 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,431,807 to Stevens et al. ("Stevens I") or U.S. Patent No. 6,722,835 to Stevens et al. ("Stevens-II) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,251,759 to Guo et al.

Submitted herewith are terminal disclaimers for Stevens I and II to overcome the double patenting rejection.

Conclusion

For at least the above reasons, it is believed that claims 1-7, 9-13, 17, and 19-21 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408)436-2112 for any questions.

If for any reason an insufficient fee has been paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the insufficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-2427.

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Docket No. 10001.000600 (NVLS 379)
Response To Office Action
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Respectfully submitted,
Craig L. Stevens et al.

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